16. (Twice Amended) A method for automatically gathering and analyzing data without human intervention relating to an asset comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a maintenance invoice *from an analysis controller* when service is performed on the asset, wherein the maintenance invoice includes an indication of the amount of usage of the asset, *wherein said indication of the amount of usage is captured by a data acquisition device, and wherein a receiver receives the indication of the amount of usage from the data acquisition device through a transmitter*;

(b) transmitting the maintenance invoice *on a communications network from the analysis controller* to an administrative controller;

(c) comparing *on the analysis controller*, the indication of the amount of usage of the asset with a predetermined standard that is representative of the warranty period; and

(d) generating a warranty report *from said administrative controller without said human intervention* if the amount of usage is less than the predetermined standard.

Formatted line: 0.5"

21. (Once Amended) A system for gathering and analyzing data relative to an asset comprising:

a data acquisition device for sensing at least one operating characteristic of the asset and for generating acquired data that is representative thereof;

a transmitter attached to the asset for transmitting said acquired data from said data acquisition device;

a receiver for receiving said acquired data transmitted from said transmitter;

a local controller associated with said receiver that is in at least periodic communication with said transmitter;

an analysis controller located at a second location remote from said local controller that is responsive to said acquired data from a plurality of local controllers for generating an analysis of said acquired data from said plurality of said local controllers, said analysis controller being configured for automatically determining without human intervention whether maintenance of the asset has been provided;

a communications network connected between each of said local controllers and said analysis controller and permitting transmission of said acquired data from said local

Deleted: a

Deleted: n

Deleted: e

controller to said analysis controller;

wherein said analysis controller provides for generating a maintenance invoice when service is performed on the asset;

wherein said communications network provides for transmitting the maintenance invoice to an administrative controller; and

wherein said analysis controller provides for comparing said acquired data with a predetermined standard.

---

31. (Once Amended)   A system for gathering and analyzing data relative to an asset comprising:

a data acquisition device for sensing at least one operating characteristic of the asset and for generating acquired data that is representative thereof;

a transmitter attached to the asset for transmitting said acquired data from said data acquisition device;

a receiver for receiving said acquired data transmitted from said transmitter;

a local controller associated with said receiver that is in at least periodic communication with said transmitter;

an analysis controller located at a second location remote from said local controller that is responsive to said acquired data from a plurality of local controllers for generating an analysis of said acquired data from said plurality of said local controllers, said analysis controller being configured for automatically determining without human intervention whether maintenance of the asset has been provided;

a communications network connected between each of said local controllers and said analysis controller and permitting transmission of said acquired data from said local controller to said analysis controller;

Deleted: a

wherein there are a plurality of responsible parties associated with said system, a first responsible party comprising at least one of a manufacturer and a supplier of the asset and a second responsible party comprising at least one of an owner or user of the asset, said analysis controller configured to use at least a portion of said acquired data in automatically determining which of said responsible parties has responsibility in whole or

in part for maintenance performed on the asset;

said analysis controller including a record of the asset, said record including said responsible parties and the nature of said responsibility, the nature of said responsibility including a factor based on said at least one operating characteristic of the asset;

wherein said analysis controller provides for generating a maintenance invoice when service is performed on the asset;

wherein said communications network provides for transmitting the maintenance invoice to an administrative controller; and

wherein said analysis controller provides for comparing said acquired data with a predetermined standard.

38.   (Once Amended)   A system for gathering and analyzing data relating to an asset comprising:

a local controller located at a first location for acquiring data that is representative of at least one operating characteristic of the asset;

an analysis controller that is responsive to said acquired data from a plurality of local controllers for generating an analysis of said acquired data, said analysis controller being configured to determine whether maintenance of the asset has been provided;

a communications network connected between said local controller and said analysis controller and permitting transmission of said acquired data from said local controller to said analysis controller;

wherein there are a plurality of responsible parties associated with said system, said analysis controller configured to use at least a portion of said acquired data in automatically determining which of said responsible parties has responsibility in whole or in part for maintenance performed on the asset;

said analysis controller including a record of the asset, said record including said responsible parties and the nature of said responsibility, the nature of said responsibility including a factor based on said at least one operating characteristic of the asset;

wherein said analysis controller provides for generating a maintenance invoice when service is performed on the asset;

D4

wherein said communications network provides for transmitting the maintenance invoice to an administrative controller; and

wherein said analysis controller provides for comparing said acquired data with a predetermined standard.

16.   (Twice Amended) A method for automatically gathering and analyzing data without human intervention relating to an asset comprising the steps of:

(a)   generating a maintenance invoice from an analysis controller when service is performed on the asset, wherein the maintenance invoice includes an indication of the amount of usage of the asset, wherein said indication of the amount of usage is captured by a data acquisition device, and wherein a receiver receives the indication of the amount of usage from the data acquisition device through a transmitter;

(b)   transmitting the maintenance invoice on a communications network from the analysis controller to an administrative controller;

(c)   comparing on the analysis controller, the indication of the amount of usage of the asset with a predetermined standard that is representative of the warranty period; and

(d)   generating a warranty report from said administrative controller without said human intervention if the amount of usage is less than the predetermined standard.

21.   (Once Amended)   A system for gathering and analyzing data relative to an asset comprising:

a data acquisition device for sensing at least one operating characteristic of the asset and for generating acquired data that is representative thereof;

a transmitter attached to the asset for transmitting said acquired data from said data acquisition device;

a receiver for receiving said acquired data transmitted from said transmitter;

a local controller associated with said receiver that is in at least periodic communication with said transmitter;

an analysis controller located at a second location remote from said local controller that is responsive to said acquired data from a plurality of local controllers for generating an analysis of said acquired data from said plurality of said local controllers, said analysis controller being configured for automatically determining without human intervention whether maintenance of the asset has been provided;

a communications network connected between each of said local controllers and said analysis controller and permitting transmission of said acquired data from said local

controller to said analysis controller;

wherein said analysis controller provides for generating a maintenance invoice when service is performed on the asset;

wherein said communications network provides for transmitting the maintenance invoice to an administrative controller; and

wherein said analysis controller provides for comparing said acquired data with a predetermined standard.

31. (Once Amended) A system for gathering and analyzing data relative to an asset comprising:

a data acquisition device for sensing at least one operating characteristic of the asset and for generating acquired data that is representative thereof;

a transmitter attached to the asset for transmitting said acquired data from said data acquisition device;

a receiver for receiving said acquired data transmitted from said transmitter;

a local controller associated with said receiver that is in at least periodic communication with said transmitter;

an analysis controller located at a second location remote from said local controller that is responsive to said acquired data from a plurality of local controllers for generating an analysis of said acquired data from said plurality of said local controllers, said analysis controller being configured for automatically determining without human intervention whether maintenance of the asset has been provided;

a communications network connected between each of said local controllers and said analysis controller and permitting transmission of said acquired data from said local controller to said analysis controller;

wherein there are a plurality of responsible parties associated with said system, a first responsible party comprising at least one of a manufacturer and a supplier of the asset and a second responsible party comprising at least one of an owner or user of the asset, said analysis controller configured to use at least a portion of said acquired data in automatically determining which of said responsible parties has responsibility in whole or

in part for maintenance performed on the asset;

said analysis controller including a record of the asset, said record including said responsible parties and the nature of said responsibility, the nature of said responsibility including a factor based on said at least one operating characteristic of the asset;

wherein said analysis controller provides for generating a maintenance invoice when service is performed on the asset;

wherein said communications network provides for transmitting the maintenance invoice to an administrative controller; and

wherein said analysis controller provides for comparing said acquired data with a predetermined standard.

38.   (Once Amended)   A system for gathering and analyzing data relating to an asset comprising:

a local controller located at a first location for acquiring data that is representative of at least one operating characteristic of the asset;

an analysis controller that is responsive to said acquired data from a plurality of local controllers for generating an analysis of said acquired data, said analysis controller being configured to determine whether maintenance of the asset has been provided;

a communications network connected between said local controller and said analysis controller and permitting transmission of said acquired data from said local controller to said analysis controller;

wherein there are a plurality of responsible parties associated with said system, said analysis controller configured to use at least a portion of said acquired data in automatically determining which of said responsible parties has responsibility in whole or in part for maintenance performed on the asset;

said analysis controller including a record of the asset, said record including said responsible parties and the nature of said responsibility, the nature of said responsibility including a factor based on said at least one operating characteristic of the asset;

wherein said analysis controller provides for generating a maintenance invoice when service is performed on the asset;

wherein said communications network provides for transmitting the maintenance invoice to an administrative controller; and

wherein said analysis controller provides for comparing said acquired data with a predetermined standard.